

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MNUC, NATO, BE, US
SUBJECT: BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES ERW IN
PARLIAMENT

1. FOREIGN MINISTER SIMONET ANSWERED QUESTIONS IN PARLIA-
MENT MARCH 22 ON THE ENHANCED RADIATION WEAPON (ERW).
HE MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS IN HIS PRESENTATION:

(A) THE QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT TO PRODUCE
THE ERW IS A MATTER SOLELY FOR THOSE GOVERNMENTS WHICH
HAVE THE TECHNOLOGICAL AND FINANCIAL MEANS TO DO SO.
THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, THUS, DOES NOT NEED TO CONSULT
ITS ALLIES ON THE DESIRABILITY OF PRODUCING STRATEGIC
OR TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

(B) THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE ERW TO THE EUROPEAN
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THEATRE OF OPERATIONS IS A MATTER FOR THE APPROVAL
OF THOSE COUNTRIES ON WHOSE TERRITORY THE WEAPON
MIGHT BE USED.

(C) THE U.S. HAS INFORMED US THAT IT WAS PREPARED
TO CONSIDER THE INTENTION TO DEPLOY THE ERW AS PART
OF A MORE GENERAL NEGOTIATION ON THE REDUCTION OF ARMS,

NOTABLY IN THE EUROPEAN THEATRE OF OPERATIONS.

(D) IT HAS NEVER BEEN THE INTENTION OF THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT FLATLY TO ENDORSE ("SOUSCRIRE SANS PLUS") A DECISION, CONCERNING WHICH IT WOULD HAVE BEEN CONSULTED, BEARING ON THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE ERW IN THE EUROPEAN THEATRE. "I HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY OF SAYING SEVERAL TIMES IN THIS REGARD THAT THE MAIN OBJECTIVE MUST BE TO ACHIEVE A PROGRESSIVE AND BALANCED REDUCTION OF FORCES IN THE EUROPEAN THEATRE."

(E) IT IS IN THIS FRAMEWORK THAT THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT WILL REPLY TO THE BREZHNEV LETTER, WHICH ASKED THE BELGIAN AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS TO CONDEMN THE PRODUCTION AND DEPLOYMENT OF THE ERW. THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS DISARMAMENT A GLOBAL ISSUE, THE ACHIEVEMENT OF WHICH IS NOT SERVED BY AN ISOLATED DECISION TAKEN WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE GENERAL CONTEXT OF THE PRESENT DISEQUILIBRIUM OF FORCES IN EUROPE. THE UNILATERAL RENUNCIATION BY ONE OF THE PARTIES IN THE DIALOGUE OF A POSSIBILITY FOR OBTAINING A SIGNIFICANT CONCESSION FROM THE OTHER WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT THE DESIRED RESULT.

(F) AT PRESENT, THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT DOES NOT BELIEVE IT USEFUL TO MAKE A DEFINITIVE STATEMENT ON THE UNCLASSIFIED

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DEPLOYMENT OF THE ERW IN EUROPE, AND MORE PARTICULARLY ON THE TERRITORY OF THE FRG, WHICH IS DIRECTLY CONCERNED.

(G) THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT NEITHER CAN NOR DOES IT HAVE THE RIGHT TO MAKE ANY JUDGMENT ON THE EVENTS (I.E. ANTI-ERW DEMONSTRATIONS) IN THE NETHERLANDS TO WHICH SEVERAL DEPUTIES HAVE REFERRED.

2. SIMONET REFERRED TO THE ERW THROUGHOUT HIS PRESENTATION AS THE "NEUTRON BOMB." OLSEN

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